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Minutes - Dec. 6, 2010

A BAC Minutes for the meeting of December 6, 2010.

Approved January 19, 2011

Board members present were Ron Sender, Scott Smith, Christopher Tonkin and Stephan Miller. Also present were Joey Glushko, Cathy Buckley, Doug Greenfield, Pete Howard and Stephen Quinn.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31.

*The corrected minutes for the November meeting were approved.

Bikeway user counts. Cathy Buckley of the Central Transportation Planning Staff and the Metropolitan Planning Organization showed us the MPO Bicycle-Pedestrian Database. This information is available online at the MPO web site. We saw the trail counts that were started in September of 2007. Counts are taken at many locations within the state at as close to the same time as possible. The data can be downloaded in either HTML or CSV formats. On the site, the data is presented graphically by location. The counts are made by both volunteers and staff. These counts (those done on trails) were made to help justify the money spent on building trails. The data is also used to supplement counts made by consultants for various specific projects. Eventually the crash data will be used for making the infrastructure safer for all modes. Joey suggested that ABAC could help in future counts. Cathy will send Joey the information on scheduling.

TAC reports. Scott told us that the plans for the Mass. Ave. Corridor Project have been resubmitted to MassHighway and the Town is waiting for the results of the review. The most recent iteration includes bicycle lanes along nearly the full length of the redevelopment. The Town hopes to hear the verdict on the submission around February. Ron asked about the relationship between the bicycle lane and the parking lane in the design. Scott answered that the combined lanes are at least 13 feet wide with a single stripe between the 5' bike lane and the 8.5-10' parking lane. Scott would also like to see individual parking spaces marked but the exact marking design can wait until after the 25% design.

Arlington Center crossing (CLAMP). Scott told us that the RFP soliciting a design is complete and has been distributed.

Brigham's Site development. Stephen felt that there is not enough parking allotted for the future residents of the development. Joey clarified that the parking situation is complicated because of space sharing with the adjacent medical building. The developers have agreed to maintain good visibility around the Mill Street crossing of the bike path. The Town has requested that the developer fund a warning light system to alert both drivers on Mill St. and path users.

Letter to the ARB. Joey wonders whether we should send a letter to the ARB supporting and encouraging bicycle accommodations at the Brigham's development. She specifically mentioned the warning lights at the intersection of the path and Mill St. Stephen and Christopher will draft the letter for ABAC's approval.

Bikeway map and brochure. Joey told us that the three committees along the Bikeway have applied for a grant to obtain funds for producing a bikeway map, brochure and improving signage. In the interim, Joey would like to print a current map with safety information on the back so that we have something to hand out immediately. Ron suggested that the map be as large as possible.

*A motion was made and passed to support the printing of an interim bikeway map.

ABAC executive board. Once again we discussed the need to recruit new members onto the ABAC board. We talked to Doug about his possible elevation. Doug asked what the procedure for appointment entails. Ron explained the process as we currently understand it.

Winter Social. The reservation for the room has been made. Stephan will transfer \$150 to Christopher who will then make out a check to pay the fee.

New meeting schedule. We would like to officially make the changes in the meeting schedule discussed last month. The meeting dates will be moved from the first Monday to the third Wednesday of most months. Ron thought that this new schedule will be confusing to potential new attendees but after more discussion we decided to make the shift.

*A motion was proposed and passed unanimously to change the meeting day from the first Monday to the third Wednesday of the month.

The meeting dates for next year will be January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16 and December 21.

Bike path warrant article. Joey would like to change the bylaw governing the use of the Bikeway. The hours of use are currently limited and many of us illegally use the path at night. In addition we would like to specifically limit the type of vehicles that can use the path. If we are going to submit revisions, we need to state our intention to do so this month. Joey outlined the process that we will need to follow. Joey will look into the ADA laws so we can include the required vehicles. Scott suggested that we also add a requirement for bicycles to use lights at night.

Arlington Advocate education initiative. Joey read us a list of possible topics for guest editorials in the Advocate. She suggested we start with a quarterly submission. Ron suggested that we look for a source of topics or existing articles we can use as source materials. Stephan suggested that we create a task group to implement this initiative. Joey will contact the Advocate to work out the details.

Other topics. Stephan asked for ideas and other help in planning the Spring Path Cleanup.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 pm.

*Denotes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller